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Thereto

Elizabeth Dunkle

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Sir:

This amendment is being filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action, mailed January 30, 2001, in connection with the above application. The time period for response has been extended to June 30, 2001, by the accompanying petition for a two-month extension of time. Please enter the following amendments:

In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims whether or not amended are presented below.

SUB /

61. (Amended) A method for identifying an agent for ameliorating an effect of loss of function of a patched gene in a cell, comprising contacting one or more test agents with a cell that expresses a wild-type patched protein and identifying test agents that change the level of